

**8/1/2006- A new species code table has been uploaded to the data webpage. It contains two new codes that were added to accommodate new species captured in 2005. These two codes are SWC (Corey's Shearwater) and BTF (Blueline Tilefish). One individual of each species was observed captured in 2005. A third "species" code, TDR (Time Depth Recorder) also is on the new code table; however use of this code is restricted to certain experimental fishing projects whose data is not on the webpage at this time.**

4/5/2006 – The POP is currently involved in a major redesign of our database and associated software. Concurrent with this project is a large scale quality control effort and development of more complete documentation for the data. To date all of the regular fishery records have been checked to verify correct number of animals. Minor errors have been found and corrected. A summary of the corrections can be found on the link ANIMAL LOG CORRECTIONS. Upon implementation of the new database system, a suite of quality assurance and validation procedures will be run on the old data. This process is expected to not be complete until the near the end of 2006. Users should contact [Lawrence.r.Beerkircher@noaa.gov](mailto:Lawrence.r.Beerkircher@noaa.gov) if there are any questions or concerns regarding this project.

1) Data on this web page are considered complete as of the date of the last update. Due to continuous validation and quality control of the master data file, these Internet files will be updated on a quarterly basis. Last update: April 2006. Note that 2001-2003 experimental data will not be updated.

2) Refer to the data forms instructions (gear log, haul log, and animal log) for explanations of data fields. Remember that some fields were added in later years (resulting in blanks in those fields for early data) and that data collected by the NEFSC observer program did not collect the same data fields as the SEFSC, again resulting in blanks for those fields). Although many of the data fields are intuitive (particularly for those users who are familiar with pelagic longline data), some are less so. Any values that seem out of an ordinary range may be explained in the comments field. It has been our experience that the large majority of questions users have had about the database would have been explained if the user had taken the time to carefully review the supplied documentation. **Please read the data form's instructions carefully and also take a moment to view the latest POP newsletter, [http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/PDFdocs/newlett\\_02\\_proof.pdf](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/PDFdocs/newlett_02_proof.pdf) before contacting POP staff with questions relating to these data.** POP staff contact information is given at: <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/observerstaff.jsp>

3) Yearly data was extracted by HAUL DATE. This means that for a trip that set gear on December 31 1999 and hauled back that set on January 1 2000, the animals caught during that set/haul, and the haul log information for that set/haul, are in the year 2000 file, not the year 1999.

4) Due to file conversion difficulties, individual animals do not necessarily appear in the order that they occurred on the line in the animal log data for any given haul.

6) Note that the POP observed various amounts of experimental fishing effort in 2004 and 2005. These data are NOT included in the web extractions at this time, pending analyses.